

April 9, 1964

LB 568

LB 568 is for vocational education but you may recall that it says that nobody gets any of this money unless they have a vocational education program. And in addition to that, it says that you don't get the additional increments of money unless you have certain types of vocational education programs. So it is going directly contrary, is it not, Senator Lamb, to some of the principles that you and I have espoused for years in this Legislature of allowing the local school districts to determine how the state aid money they get is distributed...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Excuse me, Senator Beutler. Excuse me. (Gavel) Let's hold it down so we can hear Senator Beutler. Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR BEUTLER: In fact, I think that one of the principles that people were espousing when they rejected the idea of stipends was the idea that we were doing away with local control and I think that this particular bill suffers bodily from that particular problem. In addition to the loss of local control, I might point out to you that for one of the first times in the law we are starting to give money in accordance to what we perceive to be the cost of a particular form of education. In other words the theory is that because vocational education costs more we are going to give extra amounts of money for those kinds of courses than for others and I am not sure that this is a proper philosophy either. I think that the argument might well be made that certain forms of physical education including the cost of gymnasiums, for example, is a very expensive form of education and I ask you if we are next going to get into giving more money for physical education because it is more expensive in form. We don't get into the question of whether history or English is more expensive than math, for example. Maybe it costs more for math teachers in certain areas and math would be more expensive but we don't get into that particular question but with LB 568 we are starting to make decisions along the lines of that particular principle and I don't think that that is particularly healthy. I would also point out that the timing is not particularly good. This is another essentially an aid to education bill. Already this session, of the roughly 7 or 8 million dollars